

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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The First Annual Jersey City Street Soccer Tournament to be held Sunday

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and members of the **Municipal Council**, in conjunction with the **Department of Recreation and the Hispanic Heritage Foundation**, are hosting the **First Annual Jersey City Street Soccer Tournament** from **10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 3, 2009**, at Christopher Columbus Drive between Warren Street and Marin Boulevard.

“I am thrilled to bring an exceptional soccer experience – complete with cultural celebrations and fanfare - to Jersey City,” said **Mayor Healy**. “You don't have to be a die-hard soccer fan to find excitement at this festival. With more than two hundred youth and adult players, and multiple sponsors, the festival promises more than just a soccer tournament. It's a family event that will appeal to all ages and interests.”

Mayor Healy added, “Soccer is the most played game in the world. It is an ideal medium to build bridges between different cultures because on a soccer field, differences melt away. There is just a soccer ball and team spirit.”

The First Annual Jersey City Street Soccer Tournament is a festival-style competition designed to provide the soccer enthusiast with a full day of in-game participation and soccer-related activities. **More than 200 soccer players** will compete in **10 games** starting at 10:00 a.m. and concluding at 5:00 p.m. with an exciting closing award ceremony. The tournament will include 12 youth teams made up of 6 to 15 year olds, 4 special guest teams representing the NY Red Bulls Street Team, the Jersey City Police Department, and the NJ/NY Port Authority. There will be fun activities for adults and kids, as well.

In addition to the festivities, **Council President Mariano Vega** will be appointed by **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy** as the **Jersey City Soccer Ambassador**. **Mariano Vega has been supporting and advocating the growth of the soccer community in Jersey City for two decades.**

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“The place to be Sunday, May 3rd is the First Annual Jersey City Street Soccer Festival,” said **Mayor Healy**. “You can join fans in celebrating their passion for soccer and cheering teams in match ups carefully selected to bring the best games to Jersey City.”

The event is co-sponsored by the **Hispanic Heritage Foundation**.

For more information on the **First Annual Jersey City Street Soccer Tournament**, contact the **Department of Recreation** at **201-547-4447**.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.

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